

Amendments to the Claims

Please CANCEL Claims 2, 5, 7-10, 18, and 20-26, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please AMEND Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11-17, and 19, to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a manipulation procedure database in which manipulation procedures
selectable by a user are described hierarchically;

a voice output unit which outputs voice information regarding the
manipulation procedures;

judging a determination unit which judges determines a manipulation
procedure selected by the user while the voice output unit is outputting the voice
information; and

first voice output a control unit which, in the case in which if a
manipulation procedure of contained in a hierarchy lower in order than said a present
hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure judged by said judging unit
exists, controls said voice output unit to output outputs voice information on said regarding
the manipulation procedure of contained in the lower hierarchy lower than the present
hierarchy, and;

transition unit with which, in the case in which if a manipulation procedure
of contained in a hierarchy lower in order than said the present hierarchy manipulation
procedure judged by said judging unit does not exist, a manipulation transitions to a

~~manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy which is different from a manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy of said manipulation procedure; and~~

~~second controls the voice output unit which outputs to output voice information on said regarding a manipulation procedure of contained in a the top hierarchy to which the manipulation has transitioned different from a top hierarchy of the present hierarchy.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising default setting unit which, in the case in which the manipulation transitions to a higher hierarchy without selecting any wherein if no manipulation procedure is selected in a predetermined the present hierarchy, the control unit selects a manipulation procedure contained in a hierarchy higher than the present hierarchy and controls the voice output unit to output voice information regarding the selected manipulation procedure, and~~

~~wherein sets a default the manipulation procedure in the predetermined hierarchy selected by the control unit is set in advance.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising voice re-output unit which, wherein if the determination unit receives a user's instruction indicating return during the time in which the voice output unit is outputting of voice information on said manipulation procedure, said control unit~~

~~controls said voice output unit to output~~ ~~outputs voice again from~~ voice information on ~~regarding~~ a manipulation procedure immediately ~~selected~~ before said ~~a~~ manipulation procedure for which ~~corresponding to the~~ voice information [[is]] being outputted presently.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein[[,.]] ~~if the determination unit receives a user's in the case in which~~ an instruction to ~~transfer transition~~ to a ~~higher~~ hierarchy ~~is issued~~ ~~lower than the present hierarchy~~ during the time in which the voice output unit is ~~outputting of~~ voice information on ~~said regarding a manipulation procedure contained in the present hierarchy, the control unit controls~~ the information processing apparatus ~~stops the voice output unit to stop the output of the voice information, selects a manipulation procedure contained in the hierarchy lower than the present hierarchy and controls the voice output unit to output voice information regarding the selected manipulation procedure, and wherein sets a default the manipulation procedure to transition to the higher hierarchy selected by the control unit is set in advance.~~

7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the voice information on ~~said manipulation procedure~~ is expresses a manipulation procedure name selectable by the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising: a plurality of of buttons which are associated with different ~~manipulation procedures~~ instructions, respectively, and correspond to a plurality of fingers of the user; and ~~reception~~ a detection unit which ~~receives information on~~ detects that which of ~~said the~~ plurality of buttons is depressed by the user,

wherein ~~said judging the determination~~ unit judges determines a manipulation procedure selected by the user based on ~~corresponding to~~ the depressed button ~~for which information is received~~ detected by ~~said reception the detection~~ unit.

13. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12,

wherein the user can depress ~~said the~~ plurality of buttons ~~can be operated with~~ while positions of the plurality of fingers are fixed on the plurality of buttons, respectively.

14. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12,

wherein said plurality of buttons are allocated to a part of a ten key of the apparatus.

15. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein said ~~predetermined~~ the information processing apparatus is a copying machine and said the manipulation ~~procedure~~ is a setting function ~~procedures~~ correspond to setting functions for a copying manipulation selectable by the user in the copying machine operation of the copying machine.

16. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the control unit controls the voice output unit to repeatedly output voice information ~~on said~~ regarding a manipulation procedure contained in a predetermined hierarchy ~~is outputted repeatedly as voice~~ when the present hierarchy is the predetermined hierarchy until selection of said any manipulation procedure is selected or and transition of ~~a the present~~ hierarchy is performed transferred.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An information processing~~ A method of controlling in an information processing apparatus which ~~is connectable to~~ comprises a manipulation procedure database in which manipulation procedures selectable by a user are described hierarchically, and a voice output unit outputs voice information regarding the manipulation procedures, ~~said information processing~~ the method comprising the steps of:

a judgment step of judging determining a manipulation procedure selected by the user while the voice output unit is outputting the voice information;

a first voice output step of controlling, in the case in which if a manipulation procedure of contained in a hierarchy lower in order than said a present hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure judged in said judgment step exists, outputting the voice output unit to output voice information on said regarding the manipulation procedure of contained in the lower hierarchy lower than the present hierarchy; and

a transition step with which controlling, in the case in which if a manipulation procedure of contained in a hierarchy lower in order than said the present hierarchy containing the determined manipulation procedure judged in said judgment step does not exist, a manipulation transitions to a manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy which is different from a manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy of said manipulation procedure; and

a second voice output step of outputting the voice output unit to output voice information on said regarding a manipulation procedure of the contained in a top hierarchy to which the manipulation has transitioned different from a top hierarchy of the present hierarchy.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A program stored in a computer-readable recording medium for causing a computer to implement the method of claim 17, which is

connectable to a manipulation procedure database in which manipulation procedures selectable by a user are described hierarchically; to execute:

- a judgment procedure which judges a manipulation procedure selected by the user;

- a first voice output procedure which, in the case in which a manipulation procedure of a hierarchy lower in order than said manipulation procedure judged by said judgment procedure exists, outputs voice information on said manipulation procedure of the lower hierarchy;

- a transition procedure with which, in the case in which a manipulation procedure of a hierarchy lower in order than said manipulation procedure judged by said judgment procedure does not exist, a manipulation transitions to a manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy which is different from a manipulation procedure of a top hierarchy of said manipulation procedure; and

- a second voice output procedure which outputs voice information on said manipulation procedure of the top hierarchy to which the manipulation has transitioned.

20-26. (Cancelled)